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Experience in applying the revised administrative arrangements approved by the General Assembly for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO in its decision 53/411 B

Eleventh report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/57/14) on the experience in applying the revised administrative arrangements approved by the General Assembly for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC) in its decision 53/411 B of 18 December 1998. During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information.

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly decision 55/483 of 14 June 2001, in which the Assembly endorsed the request of the Advisory Committee[1] that information be provided on experience in applying the revised administrative arrangements for ITC, as set out by the Assembly in its decision 53/411 B of 18 December 1998.

3. The Advisory Committee notes from the report of the Secretary-General that the revised administrative arrangements for ITC reflect the will of the governing bodies of both the United Nations and the World Trade Organization (WTO) to maintain their control and authority in respect of their share of resources assigned to ITC (A/C.5/57/14, para. 12).

4. The United Nations and WTO contribute jointly and equally to the financing of the regular budget of ITC. There is a section of the United Nations biennial programme budget and a section of the WTO annual regular budget for ITC. As such, ITC is subject to the different budgetary cycles and review processes of the two parent organizations (ibid., para. 2). The Advisory Committee notes that the new arrangements became effective for the biennium 2000-2001 (ibid., para. 7).

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5. The Advisory Committee also notes that the process for the approval of the ITC component of the United Nations programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 and of the annual budgets of WTO for 2002 and 2003 resulted in numerous documents having to be produced by ITC and translated and distributed by the United Nations and WTO. The Committee further notes that experience has demonstrated that the revised arrangements have not done away with the need for ITC to prepare two separate budget documents (ibid., para. 8).

6. The action to be taken by the General Assembly is indicated in paragraph 15 of the report. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposal to initiate consultations with ITC and WTO for a joint review of the arrangements.** The Committee will submit its further comments on the subject in the context of its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the General Assembly through the Committee on the proposals for a possible reduction in the number of budgetary documents and simplification of the current approval process of the ITC programme budget.

Notes

[1] A/57/7/Add.10. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 7*, para. 6.